

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE
OF THE METROPOLITAN SERVICE DISTRICT

January 21, 1992

Council Chamber

Committee Members Present: Judy Wyers (Chair), Roger Buchanan, Sandi Hansen and George Van Bergen

Committee Members Absent: Ruth McFarland

Councilors Also Present: Larry Bauer, Tom DeJardin, Jim Gardner, Susan McLain

Chair Wyers called the regular meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

1. Consideration of January 7, 1992 Solid Waste Committee Meeting Minutes

Motion: Councilor Buchanan moved for approval of the minutes of the January 7, 1992 Solid Waste Committee meeting as submitted.

Vote: Councilors Buchanan, Hansen, Wyers and Van Bergen voted aye. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

2. Solid Waste Updates

o General Staff Reports

Bob Martin, Director of Solid Waste Department, announced a letter had been received from Riedel in which Riedel unilaterally requested that Metro suspend delivery of waste to the Compost Facility. He said Metro would cease to deliver such waste at the end of business on January 31, 1992, after which time the facility would be in suspension while Riedel continued to work on problems relating to the facility. Mr. Martin referenced his letter of response to Riedel dated January 21, 1992. This letter has been made a part of the permanent meeting record.

Councilor Buchanan asked where waste normally sent to the compost facility would be sent. Mr. Martin said haulers were being asked to return to the facility which they had used before the compost facility went into operation. In response to Councilor Buchanan, Mr. Martin said Metro South would see levels of tonnage at its upper limit due to the suspension, and suggested a greater need would ensue for a transfer station in Service Area #2 in Washington County. He noted the suspension would be temporary.

In response to Councilor Hansen, Mr. Martin said the material currently in the composter would be sent to the St. Johns Landfill as fill material.

(Continued)

Mr. Martin distributed the November 1991 Solid Waste Department financial report which included tonnage activity, revenues and expenditures for the month and for year to date. He said a decline in the rate in which tonnage was being received at Metro facilities. He said tonnage was down approximately 20%, revenues down 17% and expenditures down 16%.

Councilor Buchanan asked if declines in tonnage would have a long term impact on policy in the solid waste program. Mr. Martin said he would be talking about flow projections and possible long term consequences when the Washington County discussion took place, and said the answer was yes.

o Waste Reduction Program Activities

Debbie Gorham, Waste Reduction Manager, presented the staff report, and discussed the recent staff tour to Seattle. She said the Metro group met with Seattle Solid Waste Utility and exchanged information. She said Seattle: 1) had a goal of 60% recycling recovery level by 1995; 2) used two contractors for their curbside recycling program; and 3) the tip fee charged as of the end of 1991 was \$56 per ton. She said the contracts have been renegotiated with Ribanco and Waste Management, and Metro was told they had negotiated \$84 ton with Ribanco and \$78 ton with Waste Management. She said the companies split service between north and south Seattle with slightly different services; one company provided three bins at the curb weekly, the other picked up co-mingled recyclables once a month with a roller cart. She said costs to householders were \$10.70 for a 19 gallon mini-can and \$13.75 for a 32 gallon can. She noted Portland costs, as of February 3, 1992 when the franchise system started, of \$13.25 for a mini-can and \$17.50 for a 32 gallon. She said the city and the county were sharing an \$800,000 federal grant to study food waste composting, and said they intended to use an agitated bay system, an in-vessel composting system, and said the project would carry over a two year period, adding wood waste and waste paper along with restaurant waste. She said they budgeted \$60,000 to have a home built out of as many recyclable building materials as possible with cut-aways in the dwelling to demonstrate the use of recycled materials.

In response to Chair Wyers, Ms. Gorham said feedback from Seattle regarding market development indicated it was not anticipated that resins other than the #1 and #2 plastic resins would be marketable in the future.

Councilor Gardner noted the tipping fees were similar and that the household fees were lower. Ms. Gorham said Seattle thought it was due in part to commercial recycling subsidizing the residential recycling, and said the rates in Portland will be close to true cost of service.

3. Resolution No. 92-1544, For the Purpose of Appointing Jim Michels to Fill a Vacancy on the North Portland Rehabilitation and Enhancement Committee

Katie Dowdall, Community Enhancement Coordinator, presented the staff report, and said a vacancy existed on the North Portland Rehabilitation and Enhancement Committee with the resignation of Michael Vernon on November 18, 1991. She said eight applications were received of which six applicants were interviewed, and said Jim Michels, whose qualifications were described in the agenda packet, was recommended for the appointment.

Motion: Councilor Hansen moved to recommend Resolution No. 92-1544 to the full Council for adoption.

Vote: Councilors Buchanan, Hansen, Van Bergen and Wyers voted aye. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

4. Resolution No. 92-1555, For the Purpose of Approving an Easement for the City of Oregon City for the 10-Inch Waterline Along the Northerly Side of the Metro South Station and for Fire Hydrants

James Watkins, Solid Waste Engineering & Analysis Manager, presented the staff report, and said Resolution No. 89-1163 was passed by the Metro Council November 9, 1989. He said the legal description on the easement did not match the survey. Mr. Watkins said no charge would accrue to the owner of the property for the installation of this line.

Motion: Councilor Buchanan moved to recommend Resolution No. 92-1555 to the full Council for adoption.

Vote: Councilors Buchanan, Hansen Van Bergen and Wyers voted aye. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

5. Resolution No. 92-1557, For the Purpose of Authorizing Issuance of a Request for Proposals for a Study of Weight-Based Collection Rates as Economic Recycling Incentives and Entering into Multi-Year Contracts with the Most Qualified Proposers

Ms. Gorham introduced Terry Petersen, Senior Solid Waste Planner, who presented the staff report. Mr. Petersen said a study of the benefits of "garbage by the pound" as a waste reduction effort for commercial generators was proposed by the resolution. He said Metro would contract with one or more haulers in each county to obtain a representative sample throughout the region. He said the haulers would install scales on their trucks and would weigh waste from various businesses in the region. He said the test group would include approximately 2,000 varied businesses. He said a program would then be offered for weight-based collection rate to a test group, and said a

control group would be maintained on volume based rate. He said the study would continue for approximately a six month period to determine impact on waste reduction. He said a multi-year contract was requested as the duration of the study would carry over into next fiscal year.

Councilor Van Bergen commented as tonnage was reported down about 20% through November, he had calculated approximately \$263,000 reduction in excise tax collections. He felt a cost savings of \$50,000 would occur should these contracts not be granted, and asked if a similar study had occurred elsewhere. Mr. Petersen said one had been done in Seattle that had been restricted to the residential waste stream, and said no on board scale systems currently existed certified for legal tender. He said a study such as the one proposed was necessary in order for scale manufacturers to develop the technology for a certifiable scale for haulers' use.

In response to Councilor Buchanan, Ms. Gorham said the timing was discretionary, but she urged the Committee to proceed. In response to Chair Wyers, Mr. Peterson indicated the study would last approximately eight months. He said the results would be distributed to the local governments for use in determining collection rates. Mr. Martin said he believed benefits in the long term could be derived from the implementation of the proposed project. Mr. Petersen clarified that half the waste stream was from dumpsters and was currently on a volume basis.

Motion: Councilor Buchanan moved Resolution No. 92-1557 to the full Council for adoption.

Vote: Councilors Buchanan, Hansen, McFarland and Wyers voted aye. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

6. Washington County Transfer Station, Report Concerning Selection of Proposer With Whom Metro Will Enter Negotiations

Mr. Martin presented the staff report, and said he was not ready to make a recommendation concerning the selection of a proposer for a Washington County transfer station. He presented a revised flow forecast chart to the Committee showing a trend toward decline in tonnage, and said he had concerns regarding capital cost for expansion and ongoing operational cost. He said he planned to meet with the evaluation committee to review findings, after which, he said, he would be prepared to make a recommendation. He said the alternatives for recommendation could be either the selection of one of the proposers with which to enter negotiations, or neither of the proposers selected.

In response to Councilor McLain, Mr. Martin said he felt the Service Area #2 facility would be unaffected. He said if the Forest Grove facility were expanded at this time, it appeared it would not be taking

much more tonnage than it was currently. He said it was predetermined that the Service Area #2 facility would relieve tonnages at Metro South.

In response to Chair Wyers, Mr. Martin said tonnages at Metro South were above what could be reasonably handled by the facility with the implementation of sorting processes, and said there had been complaints from the haulers.

Councilor Van Bergen and Mr. Martin discussed the tonnage flow chart. Councilor Van Bergen requested the tonnages be reported on a monthly basis to the Committee. Mr. Martin said tonnages were decreasing due to economic factors such as less building permits issued in the last year compared with the previous year, an increase in recycling, commercial establishments keeping material, and new methods to avoid creating waste. Mr. Martin said the Portland State University study would give information regarding where waste was going.

The Committee discussed the role of the evaluation committee, and Mr. Martin said he did not think the evaluation committee had considered the possibility of no transfer station being built as an option, and said he intended to present additional information to the committee for their further review and analysis. Mr. Martin said he would brief the Solid Waste Committee at the next Solid Waste Committee meeting.

In response to Chair Wyers, Mr. Martin said he thought there was a possibility that transfer station capacity increase in Service Area #1 would not be necessary. Mr. Martin said the financing criteria the evaluation committee was dealing with were sensitive to assumptions regarding tonnage flows.

In response to Councilor Bauer, Mr. Martin said the area represented by the chart was for the whole region. Councilor Bauer noted the drop in tonnage might be from a combination of service areas and not relevant to Service Area #1. Mr. Martin disagreed. In response to Councilor Bauer, Mr. Martin indicated it was possible revisions could be recommended in the service area boundaries.

Councilor Van Bergen asked what was the charge to the evaluation committee, and said he felt Mr. Martin was not disclosing the recommendation of the evaluation committee to the Solid Waste Committee. Councilor Van Bergen indicated his discontent with the proceedings. He said he wish to remind the assembly that under the original proceedings in the 1980's, three transfer stations were agreed to be placed into operation. Councilor Van Bergen requested John Houser, Council Analyst, obtain a report indicating specifically when the decline in tonnages began. He asked the criteria for the evaluation committee be included in the report as well as the time charged to them for coming forth with their report.

Councilor Hansen said she felt the presentation by staff was helpful, and said she was willing to hear further in two weeks, and felt the evaluation committee was entitled to the additional information. Councilor Hansen said consideration should be given to an alternative if Metro did not need to build or remodel at this time.

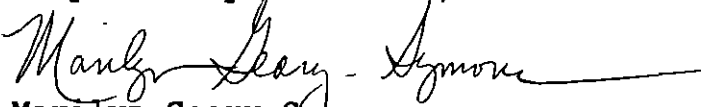
Councilor Buchanan requested Mr. Houser find out if Washington County tonnages were declining in harmony with the rest of the region.

Councilor McLain commented the proposals were different, the community had concerns and said she agreed with Councilor Hansen that additional information was welcome and was helpful in making a decision. She noted the delay would not slow the progress according to the department.

Mr. Martin he would make his recommendation when the evaluation committee had reviewed all the information and made their recommendation. Chair Wyers indicated she wished the proceedings be made as fair as possible.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Marilyn Geary-Symons
Committee Clerk